

# **CITY OF BIDDEFORD**

## **ADOPT-a-PARK PROGRAM**

### **Who qualifies to adopt a park?**

Local service clubs, sports teams, youth organizations, church congregations, special-interest groups, fraternal organizations, schools, businesses, families and friends are welcome and individuals are encouraged to adopt a park.

Youth organizations are required to have at least one adult supervisor over the age of 21 present while working at their adopted park.

### **What tasks are we volunteering to do by adopting a park?**

Adoptive groups are asked to visit the park weekly to:

- Pick up litter, cigarette butts, and dog droppings
- Sweep court surfaces
- Sweep along curbs and sidewalks
- Clean picnic tables and benches
- Clean and rake children's play areas
- Pull weeds, trim vegetation

Groups are also asked to keep track of the volunteer hours spent in their respective parks, as well as make note of and report the following to our Public Works Department:

- Graffiti
- Vandalism damage
- Damaged or diseased trees
- Unsafe conditions

All mowing will be done by our Public Works Department.

### **Who will supply cleaning materials?**

Some tools and materials may be available through our city's Public Works Department and Heart of Biddeford office. However, adoptive organizations are encouraged to furnish their own supplies, due to the coordination and staffing time required to provide such materials.

Suggested items include:

- Trash bags
- Brooms
- Dustpan

- Garden buckets or barrels
- Wheelbarrows
- Rakes & other garden implements such as hoes, hand trimmers, weeding forks, and shovels

### **May we choose which park we want to adopt?**

Yes! Groups are encouraged to select a park near members' homes, schools or meeting places. Larger parks, such as Mechanics Park, may benefit by being adopted by more than one organization.

Requests for a specific park will be granted whenever possible, but cannot be guaranteed.

### **Which parks can be adopted?**

Any Biddeford park can be adopted.

Some parks may even have two or more volunteer groups. A complete list of Biddeford parks is available online at: [www.heartofbiddeford.org](http://www.heartofbiddeford.org)

### **What do we get out of it?**

In addition to clean parks and a sense of pride in serving the community, groups adopting a park will be recognized by pronouncements at City Council meetings, in articles written in our local newspapers. Groups will also be recognized when they join the program through the Heart of Biddeford Web site, in the Heart of Biddeford newsletter and on the City's cable TV channel, Channel 3.

### **What is the term of the Adopt a Park contract?**

The contract is for a renewable period of one year with the primary effort in the parks being from April thru October.

### **Is there anything else we should know?**

Adopting a park isn't just about work; it's about fun! Your group's time at your adopted park could include a picnic, outdoor games, or a swimming or fishing outing (in some parks). Best of all, it's an opportunity to get to know one another better.

### **How do we get started?**

Contact Holly Culloton, through the Heart of Biddeford: (207) 730-1799.

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